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CJA: MINISTERS DEMAND BETTER TRADE TREATMENT FROM U.S.

PA011450 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[Report by Manuel Alfonso]

[Text] The Central American agriculture ministers have demanded that the United States reduce high tariffs imposed on coffee, sugar and other imported agricultural products because they hurt the economies of the countries of the region. The ministers, who are attending the ninth special session of the international regional committee on agriculture and livestock health [in Mexico City] affirmed that the United States is following an intransigent and very negative policy, not only for the Central American countries but for all Latin America. They demanded fairer and preferential treatment because, on the one hand, the United States imposed exorbitant tariffs on its imports and, on the other, it tries to hold prices of products bought from our countries to a minimum.

The ministers also said that the United States views Latin America as a strategic reserve to supply itself with those products, promoting a policy of looting in the region. Finally, they agreed to create a common front to defend the interests of Latin America.

OAS PROTEST BEING DRAFTED OVER U.S. INACTION ON SUGAR PACT

FL011552 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Jamaica has been appointed to a working group set up by the Organization of American States to draft a declaration or resolution to be submitted to the U.S. Government and Congress. The declaration or resolution is to embody a formal protest to the United States about its failure to ratify the International Sugar Agreement and its measures to protect the American sugar industry. The document is being prepared on behalf of sugar producing countries in the Caribbean and Latin America, and others in the working group are from Brazil, Guatemala and the U.S.

During a 4-day OAS meeting in Washington, the American failure to ratify the International Sugar Agreement--the ISA--was severely criticized. So too was the American heavy subsidies on sales of European sugar, which has caused world sugar prices to remain depressed at about 8 cents a pound. Last year, the U.S. signed the ISA, which seeks to stabilize sugar prices at between 11 and 21 cents a pound. However, ratification has been delayed in Congress.

BRIEFS

GUATEMALAN PARTICIPATION IN LAES--Caracas, 27 Feb (AFP)--The Latin American Economic System (LAES) Permanent Secretariat reported here today that Guatemala has become the 14th member of the LAES Fisheries Committee. The committee is in charge of promoting joint actions to strengthen fishing activity and food policy in the framework of regional cooperation. Guatemala is now a member of all the LAES action committees. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1729 GMT 27 Feb 79 PA]

EDITORIAL REBUTS LABOR LEADERS' LETTER TO VIDELA

PYC20300 Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 23 Feb 79 pp 14, 24 PY

[Editorial by Anibal C. Vigil: "A Challenge, a Decision"]

[Excerpts] "From now on the entire country will watch you while you decide between an economic policy which has fully demonstrated its inability to solve the most burning problems of productive sectors--and has made them worse still--or social peace which can be guaranteed only by implementing the corrective measures demanded by the situation, tempering power with justice and understanding for social problems."

This is one of the paragraphs of the open letter sent by the National Labor Commission (CNT) to President Videla last week.

It adds: "We have reached a critical point at which everything indicates an urgent need for a change of course, a decision which must be adopted firmly in order to avoid worse evils, not only to the workers but to the entire country as well."

It is worth noting that the letter is written by union leaders, most of them Peronists, who between 1973 and 1976 supported the Justicialist Liberation Front (FREJULI) and who, through their political power, became part of the government during this stage which occurred only 3 years ago. Union leaders who, thanks to their indiscriminate support, permitted the government to go into partnership with subversion, unleashing violence and chaos. They also allowed a minister who promised zero inflation to destroy the economic apparatus of the country by unleashing a price spiral which reached 36 percent per month. I repeat, all this was only 3 years ago--three.

At that point I read no letter to the then-president of the nation such as that now addressed to Videla asking for corrections to save us from disaster. Why is it then that they are writing this letter now when the country has managed to organize its social life and its economy, now when the country at least has proper budgets and rational priorities for expenditures and when inflation, although still very high, has decreased from 1000 to 170 percent per year?

Are there sectors of the country which have had their incomes reduced significantly? Unfortunately, when one plays with the productive apparatus, when one disrupts and destroys this apparatus, when capital is being harassed and threatened, when the minimum guidelines for labor order are taken as a joke, the country and many of its citizens are bound to suffer for a long time because of this irresponsibility. All this happened during the FREJULI government, a government--I repeat--which was blindly supported by the union leaders who are now either the authors of this open letter or who support it.

Every time Argentina attempted to implement an in-depth change of its populist economic structures, a group of union leaders opposed it fiercely. This group resorted to strikes, political pressures, demands for mass salary hikes; resorted, in fact, to all union tools available to it to prevent this change. And it managed to do so every time. For 35 years now the country has had an economic structure of the populist kind: predominantly state-oriented, artificially upheld by the national treasury, directed toward an exaggerated industrialization to the detriment of agriculture and livestock and with heavy deficits in the state budget. This is how it was and this is how it is. Each time we become more out of step with the rest of the world, offering the citizens fewer possibilities for a better and more rewarding life, at least materially speaking.

And now what? What are the corrective measures which these union leaders demand in their open letter? The ones the FREJULI had implemented? If social peace is now threatened by the economic policy of this military government, what can we say about the one Minister Gelbard implemented with the support of Peronism, the People's Radicals, the Integration and Development Movement and the union movement which was part of the FREJULI, in other words, practically everybody? Some kind of open letter ought to have been written then. But it was not.

It is easy to detect an obvious political objective behind this letter. It is worth pointing out that this open letter does not merely request a salary hike. Were this the case, it would at least be reasonable. We know that salary hikes do not solve anything and the experience of past years proves this. At least it would be justified. But the letter openly demands the removal of the economy minister and the termination of the current economic plan.

The economic plan "must" be changed because, should it succeed, the country would make a clean break with the populist economic framework which has been hindering us for 35 years and which is the product of an ideology, an ideology now represented by these union leaders and the political parties which once joined the FREJULI, an ideology which makes them very powerful.

Thus, there is a political issue behind this open letter and not a desire to improve the true income of the Argentine worker because these very measures advocated by these pressure groups are the ones which impoverished the Argentine worker. These measures are the ones which unleashed shortages, black marketing, the dwindling of Central Bank reserves and true unemployment disguised by the state, which was forced to take over a number of bankrupt enterprises.

However, there is no denying an inalienable reality: the union movement must exist, and the governments, either this one or those to follow, must respect it.

The theory of the armed forces economic plan is appropriate.

Implementation could be amended and executive errors could be corrected, but it is inadvisable to surrender once again to the pressure of an ideology which has reigned in the country for many years. This ideology has sufficiently proven its inability to create a genuine wealth which could be distributed among the people, and this is what many of us Argentines hope for.

GDP FOR 1978 SHOWS DOWNTURN OF 4.1 PERCENT

PY020244 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0016 GMT 2 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Mar (NA)--The gross domestic product for 1978 was 4.1 percent lower than that for 1977, it was officially reported a few moments ago by the Economy Ministry. The report on the GDP for last year indicated that the gross industrial output fell 7.9 percent and that investment was down 10.7 percent from the previous year.

BRIEFS

NEW OIL WELL--Salta, 28 Feb (NA)--A new petroleum well called "Cuchara" began operating today at a deposit located in the northern part of Salta Province. This well will yield 272,825,000 liters of crude oil monthly.. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1840 GMT 28 Feb 79 PY]

KUZNETSOV WILL HEAD SOVIET DELEGATION TO INAUGURAL

PY010154 Paris AFP in Spanish 2224 GMT 28 Feb 79 FY

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 28 Feb (AFP)--Vasiliy Vasilyevich [Kuznetsov] first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, will represent his country at the inauguration of the new Brazilian president, Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo, on 15 March, the Foreign Ministry reported here today.

Besides Vasilyevich [as received], the Soviet delegation will include Dmitriy Zhukov, the ambassador to Brazil, and a member of the Central Committee Politburo, whose name was not disclosed by the Foreign Ministry.

MINAS GERAIS STATE BESET BY NEW FLOODING

PY020243 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 2 Mar 79 FY

[Text] According to the latest information from Minas Gerais, rain has fallen over 294 cities, 37 of which are now isolated, 94 highways are impassable and 14 powerlines have been destroyed. Waters have flooded 13,213 houses and destroyed 6,238. Approximately 250 persons have died.

BRIEFS

BANDEIRANTES SOLD TO FINLAND--San Jose dos Campos (O GLOBO)--The Brazilian Aeronautics Company signed a contract yesterday whereby it will sell a Bandeirantes EMB-110 P-1 to the Finnish company Kar-Air, whose president (Tuomas Karhumaki) said that the plane will be used for domestic flights and for transporting mail at night. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Feb 79 p 19 FY]

FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES--The Foreign Trade Department [CACEX] reported yesterday that the United States and EEC countries alone accounted for 50 percent of the total value of the country's foreign trade (both imports and exports) in 1978. Official data show that the United States and EEC countries accounted for \$12 billion of the total \$26.3 billion of the country's foreign sales and purchases in 1978. Trade with OPEC countries (excluding Venezuela) amounted to \$5.3 billion. The following are Brazil's major trade partners: the United States, whose exports amounted to \$2.9 billion and imports to \$2.9 billion; Japan, whose exports amounted to \$1.2 billion and its imports to \$629.5 million; the FRG, whose exports amounted to \$1.1 billion and its imports to \$1 billion. Developing countries accounted for only 19 percent of Brazilian exports and 10.44 percent of Brazilian imports. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Feb 79 p 19 FY]

NEW BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR--Brasilia, 1 Mar (LATIN)--Gustavo Medeiros Querejazu, new Bolivian ambassador to Brazil, today presented his credentials to President Ernesto Geisel. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1614 GMT 1 Mar 79 FY]

FRENCH CREDIT FOR ITAIPU--Rio de Janeiro, 1 Mar (TELAM-EFE)--The Itaipu binational enterprise reports that a consortium of French banks has granted a \$150-million credit to finance the purchase of French-made electrical equipment for the Itaipu hydroelectric plant. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0505 GMT 1 Mar 79 FY]

TURBAY CITES ENERGY POLICY IN HOUSE SPEECH

PA281333 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 2324 GMT 27 Feb 79 PA

[President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala's message to the House of Representatives on the occasion of the opening of the special period of congressional sessions--live]

[Excerpt] The Mines and Energy Ministry has to be reorganized technically and administratively to face the [word indistinct] challenge it has ahead. Unfortunately, its administrative structure leaves much to be desired and therefore needs an immediate modernization. To this end, the government's concern is to revise the institutional makeup of the mines and energy sector so that it can plan and manage energy resources according to a policy which is uniform and compatible with the basic structures of a modern and dynamic economy.

This government is trying to avoid improvisations and oversights in this field which could obstruct efforts and hopes to improve existing social and economic standards in the country. In the bill submitted to Congress, the national government wishes to strengthen its [words indistinct] to develop its coal resources within the context of a policy entirely dedicated to the energy sector.

No one in Colombia is ignoring the fact that the demand for coal will increase faster now than in the past. According to general estimates, our country has 60 percent of Latin America's coal reserves. For this reason it is important to develop a policy for this resource that is in harmony with programs for the substitution of fuels.

The government considers the Colombian Coal Enterprise [CARBOCOL] the most adequate institution to commercialize and develop the country's coal resources, in association with local or international private sectors. For this reason it is searching for coal reserves which belong to the state but which are idle in the hands of private citizens so that they are properly explored and exploited according to specific plans and programs which can be expanded.

International circumstances worsened by the Iranian crisis point to a difficult period for the energy field, especially regarding prices and the supply of crude. Regarding Colombia, without neglecting the exploration and exploitation of new oil wells, our efforts should primarily be directed toward the exploitation of our gas and coal resources, which have already been proven to be abundant.

The government is extremely worried about periodic speculative activities which are affecting our economy because they represent a threat to the stability of the democratic way of life. One of the government's main duties is to protect its citizens so that they can carry out their activities within a framework of public order and social peace. On several occasions I have mentioned the need to provide security to those who wish to invest their savings in productive activities.

The struggle against inflation cannot succeed if all public sectors do not participate in regulating the transfer of resources. Therefore, in compliance with the constitutional mandate which gives the president of the republic control over private savings, some measures have been issued allowing some enterprises to participate in other [words indistinct]. Certain results have been achieved in this respect. However, it is necessary to make participation available to all investments executed with funds available in the financial market. Even the slightest movement of these resources is an essential factor in opening solid savings means for all who would not otherwise easily find specific destinations for their own surpluses and who are led to broadening the extrabank market [mercado extra bancario].

ECOPETROL PRESIDENT SAYS COUNTRY HAS SUFFICIENT FUEL

PA011358 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [ECOPETROL] President Alvaro Barrera Rueda has said that the country has assured itself of sufficient fuel supplies for this year. Despite the [word indistinct] problems caused by the suspension of Iran's petroleum exports, Colombia is confident that the supply it obtains from other international sources will be sufficient to satisfy the demand during 1979. Barrera Rueda added that the government is confident that there will be an easing of the current crisis sometime this year.

ANTIRIOT POLICE OCCUPY NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

PA011924 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1626 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 1 Mar (EFE)--Urban police antiriot units early this morning occupied the National University of Bogota, the most important higher educational center in the country. The occupation took place following 2 days of class inactivity and violent disturbance during which hooded rioters kidnaped Rector Rameses Hakim and forced him to abandon his office amid shouts and vandalistic actions. Hakim warned yesterday that should new violence break out he would close down the university. Last year this academic center was the center of sabotage actions which forced the government to suspended classes.

Over 30 students of the national university linked to terrorist movements are being tried here by military court. Fifteen others charged with promoting riots last week were acquitted.

COMMENTATOR VIEWS COUNTRY'S OIL CRISIS

PA271511 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Feb 79 PA

[Commentary by correspondent German Duque]

[Text] New and serious announcements have been heard in the country over the past few hours as a result of the domestic oil crisis and the situation in the international oil market. One of the most drastic periods of oil rationing awaits Colombia in the immediate future. Colombia is facing numerous difficulties in importing gasoline needed for the domestic market. The outrageous prices being paid by the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [ECOPETROL] for imported gasoline may be added to this. A barrel which a few weeks ago cost \$14.00 today costs approximately \$30.00, a price which is extremely high for a country with an oil crisis. Gasoline is not only very expensive but is also scarce.

Super Noticias has learned that Brazil has already told ECOPETROL that it will not sell more gasoline to it. The costly gasoline imported from abroad and deficient regulation of it in the country may place the transportation sector in very serious difficulties very shortly. This could be interpreted as within a few days. Cargo transportation workers have already expressed their concern over the short supply of [word indistinct] and gasoline for their trucks. Reserves which are stored in tank farms located in central Colombia are beginning to run out.

Will ECOPETROL be able to import gasoline at \$0.74 per gallon, that is, at more than 30 Colombian pesos per gallon, when it has to distribute it at [the subsidized price of] 18 pesos? Will the country be able to resist fuel rationing and the paralysis of its transportation? The state would have a new unexpected problem [words indistinct] at the domestic level because of the Iranian conflict and the subsequent high increases announced.

GUERRILLA LEADER REQUESTS DIALOG WITH NEW GOVERNMENT

PA020402 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 1 Mar (EFE)--Julio Escalona, the most wanted Venezuelan guerrilla in recent times, today, Thursday, asked the new government which assumes power on 12 March for a dialog.

In a communique, the text of which was published by the newspaper EL NACIONAL, Escalona, who signs as secretary general of the Organization of Revolutionaries, makes an extensive analysis of Venezuela's economic problems and the situation of the working classes. Escalona is the leader of a subversive group which claims to have carried out several acts of vengeance in the eastern part of the country. Military intelligence has been after Escalona for years.

In the communique, Escalona severely criticizes the 1958-1963 Romulo Betancourt administration. According to him, the Betancourt administration is responsible for the abrupt eruption since 1958 of the economic, political and social problems which had been accumulating during the 10-year Perez Jimenez dictatorship.

He says that at the beginning of the decade of the 1960's Venezuela went through serious economic difficulties due to a drop in oil prices, an increase in bureaucratic expenditures and unchecked administrative corruption. Escalona says that in the political sphere, Betancourt forced the revolutionary left to take the path of violence since the measures adopted by the government were against the freedom of action.

In his criticism of the democratic governments in Venezuela since 1958, the guerrilla leader refers to the Raul Leoni administration, which governed from 1964 to 1969. He says that during Leoni's administration repression against revolutionary groups became more intense and the deserters from the guerrillas were used by the government as informers.

In regard to Rafael Caldera's Social Christian government, Escalona admits that it was more tolerant with political prisoners and the administration gave some guarantees to revolutionary groups for them to return to public life.

Regarding the negative aspects of the 1969-1973 period in which Caldera was in power, Escalona mentions the military occupation of the Los Andes, the Central and the Carabobo universities, which are the most important in Venezuela.

Referring to Carlos Andres Perez' administration, Escalona says: "At no time under the present government has there been a possibility of tolerance and a willingness to find a true democratic solution to the existing state of violence."

Escalona appeals to President-elect Luis Herrera Campins, who assumes power on 12 March, to open the doors for a dialog and promises in this respect the broadest cooperation from the revolutionary groups.

Regarding the country's economic situation, Escalona says that most of Venezuela's wealth is presently in the hands of a few while the large mass of workers are not receiving good wages.

He says in the communique that the revolution can be carried out by peaceful means. "Violence for the sake of violence is not a revolutionary practice. We love life but we want to live that life in democracy and freedom," Escalona points out.

He asks the new Social Christian government to implement norms of democratic struggle which give guarantees to all political organizations and to strengthen the labor movement.

He says that the clandestine struggle carried out for more than two decades is due to specific factors in the country's economic and political life. He says that the guerrillas are willing to put down their arms and return to civilian life if conditions are favorable for such an action. "We have specific proposals," Escalona says, "for submission to the authorities and we are absolutely willing to listen to proposals." Finally, Escalona says that the revolutionary group he leads is willing to hold a dialog and is prepared to negotiate for its members' return to civilian life when the new government is inaugurated and accepts the proposals he has submitted.

NEW NATIONAL CONGRESS TO BE INSTALLED 2 MARCH

PA011210 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 28 Feb 79 PA

[Text] The new National Congress will be installed on Friday. It will be comprised of 23 Democratic Action (AD) senators, 22 for the Social Christian Party (COPEI) and 2 for the Movement for Socialism (MAS). As regards deputies, AD has 88, including 5 independents; COPEI has 84, including 5 members of the Democratic Republican Union who were elected from its lists; MAS has 11; the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, 4; the [name indistinct], 1; the Socialist League, 1; the Unitarian Vanguard, 1; Common Cause, 1; and the National Integrity Movement, 1.

INCOMING ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES THREE MINISTERS

PA021319 Paris AFP in Spanish 0217 GMT 2 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 1 Mar (AFP)--A spokesman of the future Social Christian government reported here today that three members of President-elect Luis Herrera Campins' Cabinet have already been officially appointed. They are Gonzalo Garcia Bustillos, who will be minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency; Luciano Valero, who will be agriculture and livestock minister; and Carlos Febres Poveda, who will be in charge of the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry.

Contrary to what had been expected, the incoming administration did not disclose other names of the future 17 ministers, 23 state and federal territory governors, or heads of the various national institutes and state enterprises such as the Venezuelan Petroleum Company (PETROVEN). The complete list will be released before 12 March, the date on which Social Democrat Carlos Andres Perez will turn over power to Luis Herrera Campins, who was elected on 3 December 1978.

100,000 FOREIGNERS ENTITLED TO VOTE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

PA021214 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 28 Feb 79 PA

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Council has decided that 100,000 foreigners are entitled to vote in the municipal elections to be held 3 June. This is the first time in Venezuela's democratic history that foreigners will be able to vote in an election. Those born abroad are not obliged to vote as this is the duty of Venezuelans exclusively. In order to vote, foreigners must have lived in this country at least 10 years and at least 1 year in the district in which they want to vote.

PRESIDENT GISCARD BEGINS ACTIVITIES ON 4-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

Arrival Speeches

PA011207 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2103 GMT 28 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Feb (EFE)--Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo said today, Wednesday, that Mexico and France have similarities which should be cultivated and differences that must be used to advantage "through the path of complementation." Lopez-Portillo made the statement on receiving French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who arrived here for an official 4-day visit.

The Mexican president, accompanied by his wife, received Giscard and told the visitor that they both can do much to achieve equality, equilibrium and justice for their peoples.

"I am convinced that the next few days will be fruitful," the Mexican president said.

On welcoming Giscard and his wife, Anne Aymone, Lopez-Portillo noted that they had arrived on "the beautiful wings of concord," a reference to the Concorde supersonic airplane which brought them.

The Mexican president said that Mexico, like France, is a pluralistic country which works at maintaining democracy.

For his part, French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, responding to Lopez-Portillo, called for a pluralistic world society in which no doctrine predominates over the others. Giscard, who will remain here 4 days, said that every culture should have the opportunity to express itself in the world of the future. Mexico and France can exert influence to bring this about, he said, because the two nations have the opportunity to cooperate in building the world.

Speaking to Lopez-Portillo at the air terminal, Giscard said that never before have France and Mexico been so young and so channeled toward the future, despite their longstanding cultural roots. [as received] He said that nothing separates Mexico and France--not the ocean, the spirit or the heart. Both countries have the same concept of democracy and both are proud of their fatherland. In addition they share a deep love of peace, he said.

In this regard, he noted the lack of obstacles in the two countries' bilateral relations in a world in which international relations are tense because of power struggles.

Giscard delivered the speech, which was later translated by his wife, only a few minutes after descending from the plane which brought him to this country.

Newspaper Comment

PA012107 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1935 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Mar (LATIN)--Mexican newspapers today headlined French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Mexico. They all described the welcome given him on his arrival in this capital yesterday as "warm but restrained."

"The chiefs of state spoke in plain language during the warm welcome not only because the languages are similar, but because they have a common ideology," EXCELSIOR said in its editorial.

The center-leftist UNO MAS UNO analyzed inflation-related problems in France and Mexico. These problems, together with unemployment, are the main concern of the two governments. It also emphasized the French offer of nuclear technology and enriched uranium to Mexico. This would place Mexico in a better position in the field among the Latin American nations.

The conservative EL HERALDO DE MEXICO gave wide coverage to the visit without making any editorial comments. Meanwhile, the independent EL DIA listed "the multiple values of the French president's visit."

"Valery Giscard d'Estaing arrived in Mexico at a favorable moment in view of the purposes which brought him to this land. Undoubtedly, he will take advantage of the obvious fact that Carter returned to the United States without reaching any of his goals." EL DIA noted in an article by Jorge Aymami.

1 March Activities

PA012305 Paris AFP in Spanish 2115 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[By special AFP correspondent Francois Chatel]

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 1 Mar (AFP)--This morning French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing was given the key to this city and commented on the "extraordinary vitality" of Mexico's capital.

Giscard, who arrived in Mexico yesterday for a 3-day official visit, placed a floral wreath at the independence pillar erected in Paseo de la Reforma, one of Mexico City's most important avenues.

The French president went to the office of the mayor of Mexico City where he received the key to the city from the hands of the regent (intendant). At the end of this ceremony and as hundreds of people cheered him, Giscard walked to a Mexico City subway station. The subway was built with French assistance.

He also walked to the Templo Mayor excavation, a recent archeological find in the ancient capital of the Aztec empire, Tenochtitlan. These ruins were discovered only a few hundred meters away from the presidential palace located in Zocalo Square.

While the crowds cheering the president are not large, the Mexican news media is commenting broadly and favorably on his visit.

Technological Aid Offer

PA012130 Paris AFP in Spanish 1946 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Mar (AFP)--France proposed to Mexico today close ties at all levels so that Mexico can balance its relationship with the United States. It also proposed a special [privilegiada] association that will speed up the establishment of a new international economic order.

The initiative was launched by President Valery Giscard d'Estaing during a meeting here today with representatives of Mexico's public and private economic sectors.

At the same time, Giscard implicitly confirmed that France is willing to supply technology to Mexico so that it can develop its nuclear industry for peaceful objectives.

He said that his country favors the transfer of modern technology to Mexico, particularly in the fields of the new energies and the agro-food, space and telecommunications industries, among others.

Giscard recognized that Mexico is "one of the main economic powers of Latin America." Relations between Mexico and France can be developed on the basis of mutual competence and the coincidence of policies.

Giscard noted that France forms part of the European Economic Community but that beyond the borders of that Common Market, France is interested in countries that are farther away.

It is logical, the president said, that in the face of the U.S. economic power, Mexico wants to balance that relationship. Mexico carries out 70 percent of its trade--with all its implications--with the United States. That situation, Giscard added, encourages Mexico to diversify its economic relations in connection with that country and France can play an important role in that framework. In this sense, he said, "our bilateral relations can be an example." He then offered Mexico the supply of advanced French technology.

He referred to the North-South dialog, stressing that at the meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1972, Mexico presented a charter of economic rights and duties of states. He also noted the continuation of the North-South dialog at the French Government's initiative.

Giscard concluded by referring to the new meeting of the UNCTAD scheduled to be held in Manila in May. He said that it is necessary that the meeting "finally" contribute positive solutions to the problems in the international economy. In this regard, Giscard proposed that Mexico and France hold a dialog prior to the conference in order to coordinate the positions of the two countries.

Giscard on European Currency

PA020130 Paris AFP in Spanish 2301 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Mar (AFP)--French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing said here today that Latin American clients must get used to the idea that once the European "ecu" goes into effect, it will be useless for them to speculate with the value of one or another currency in their commercial transactions with the Old World.

Giscard explained that the European Monetary System seeks to establish monetary stability among the countries of the European Economic Community (EEC). The EEC is made up of France, Italy, the FRG, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg, Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark. The French president said that within the European Monetary System, European central banks will have rules of intervention "that will tend to prevent monetary fluctuations or keep them within narrow limits."

The instrument of intervention will be called the "ecu" (escudo). It will not be a currency for commercial transactions or a reserve currency, Giscard emphasized. This will keep "fluctuations of the various currencies within very narrow limits," he said.

Giscard added that for Latin American clients of the EEC, "this will mean that you will have to get used to the idea that the European currencies form a homogeneous group and that all these currencies will fluctuate at comparable rates."

Trade regulations [as received] will be effected with the usual currencies, but "with the knowledge that there is no advantage or any particular risk in choosing any one European currency over another," Giscard concluded.

CANAL AUTHORITY, COMPTROLLER GENERAL'S OFFICE IN CONFLICT

PA012000 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 1 Mar 79 p 1 PA

[Article by Carlos J. Nunez L.]

[Text] A serious conflict between the Panama Canal Authority and the Comptroller General's Office arose over the past few days when it was learned that the Canal Authority has appointed its own comptroller and categorically refuses to allow the Comptroller General's Office to have jurisdiction over its activities. Comptroller General Damian Castillo Duran has sent a long letter [to the Canal Authority] in this regard, noting that the Panama Canal Authority would be committing a serious violation of the national constitution and an infringement on his office's authority.

The specific topics discussed in Castillo Duran's letter have not been revealed yet. It was learned that there are elements in the Panama Canal Authority who are thinking of creating a new "little canal zone" in order to create a new aristocracy. The situation is very delicate, since that Panamanian territory, with all its installations, will revert to Panama on 1 October. The most useful and beneficial thing for the country is to maintain the territory under a single economic unit and, consequently, increase its income.

OFFICIAL ON U.S. CONGRESSMAN'S STATEMENTS, COMPTROLLER DISPUTE

PA020426 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[Text] John Murphy, chairman of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee of the U.S. Congress, made statements on Sunday to the effect that the Panama Canal treaty is an agreement in principle whose details have to be worked out.

Stating that it is up to the U.S. Congress to legislate in order to prevent Panama from misinterpreting the clauses of the treaty, John Murphy said that the Congress should take measures to keep the U.S. executive branch from intervening to the detriment of its own country.

This morning, the reaction of the members of the Panama Canal Authority was not long in coming. Fernando Manfredo, adviser to the director general of the Canal Authority and future deputy administrator of the Panama Canal Commission, made the following statements:

[Begin recording] [Question] What is your opinion of the statements made by Congressman John Murphy during the news conference held on Saturday [as heard] in the Panama Canal Zone?

[Answer] The congressman's statements are very dangerous and in fact are based on a very strange thesis. According to Congressman Murphy, the treaties were only an agreement to reach agreements that would later be complemented by other agreements. On the basis of this interpretation he seeks approval of legislation which would constitute a new interpretation of the treaties, one that would be completely unilateral on the part of the United States. This would be completely unacceptable for Panama.

[Question] That is not all. Congressman Murphy states that the terms of the treaty must be clarified and final legislation then prepared. To what will this be equivalent?

[Answer] I agree that some things must be clarified [words indistinct] with the U.S. counterpart--a clarification of some points of the treaty which will later be [words indistinct] clarify the treaty.

However, what Murphy intends goes far beyond this. He intends to give the treaty a unilateral interpretation and then make it law. For Panama, anything which comes in a subsequent law, and which in fact (?departs from) the treaties, can have no validity.

[Question] Yes, but the U.S. Congress is at present legislating with regard to the treaties. Despite the fact that we already have a treaty that has been agreed upon, how much influence can this legislation which the U.S. Congress is preparing have on the treaty as far as Panamanians are concerned?

[Answer] I believe that in view of the importance of this question and the complications that an answer from me might bring, I would like that answer to be given by the Foreign Ministry at the proper time, as the ministry intends to do. It will definitely do so.
[end recording]

Regarding the alleged conflict between the supervision of the Comptroller General's Office and the functions of the Canal Authority, Manfredo said that there is no such conflict but, rather, interpretational difficulties.

Fernando Manfredo made these statements to Televisora Nacional during the following interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] Is there any conflict between the procedures of the Office of the Comptroller General and the actions of this Canal Authority?

[Answer] Today I was very surprised to see in the press certain statements attributed to the comptroller which seemed to give the impression that we in the Canal Authority are disputing the competence of the Comptroller's Office to exercise supervision over the Canal Authority. This is not true.

To tell you the truth, there has been a small problem, which is as follows: The Auditor's Office has applied to other state entities its system of accountability and other systems in the area of economic and financial analysis. We have told the Comptroller's Office that we do not object to having it participate in those two areas--the accounting system and economic and financial analysis--but that in the specific case of the Panama Canal Authority, in view of the nature of its functions, because of the magnitude, the complexity, and especially because of the type of relations established with [words indistinct] to whom we provide services in the area of housing and in the area of the functioning of the canal, which are even to be reimbursed by the United States, there is a very special function. What we have asked of the Comptroller's Office is a certain amount of flexibility, but at no time and under no circumstances have we disputed its right to exercise full supervision and control over the Canal Authority and its operations.

I spoke with the comptroller and apparently the information was misunderstood by a newsman whom I know to be a very responsible person. I am asking that when news of this type is publicized, news which could give the impression that there are divisions within the government family, newsmen confirm it first because there is no such division, and this is a time in which we have to be more united than ever. [end recording]

COSTA RICA

OAS VERIFIES TERRITORIAL INCURSION BY NICARAGUAN GUARDSMEN

PA011941 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[Excerpts] According to reports submitted to President Rodrigo Carazo about the events which took place yesterday, the Nicaraguan National Guard entered Costa Rican territory.

Official sources said OAS observers verified that the Nicaraguan National Guard had entered Costa Rican territory and fired upon the inhabitants of a Costa Rican town. This report will be sent to Washington this weekend so the OAS Permanent Council can review it and issue a statement.

APPEAL MADE FOR OAS INTERVENTION TO STOP SOMOZA

PA012011 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[Station commentary]

[Text] The new invasion of Costa Rican territory by Somoza does not seem to have worried anybody. Even though the OAS ~~has~~ ~~observers~~ in our territory, it has done nothing to end this flagrant violation of all international treaties and agreements.

Somoza enters Costa Rican territory freely. His troops invade our territory easily. We ask: How long will the dictator continue to intervene and when will he be put in his place? When will the OAS react to the invader? We ask: Has the time come for us Costa Ricans to take revenge on Somoza and extract a tooth for a tooth?

Somoza wants us Costa Ricans to respond to his constant attacks with bombs and invasions. Why does the OAS continue to support Somoza with a silence of complicity in view of so many invasions and deaths on the border? Is the OAS aware that Somoza is playing with and mocking international bodies as well as respectable treaties and agreements? Why does the OAS remain silent in the face of Somoza's invasion of Costa Rican territory?

We make an appeal and issue a warning in view of Somoza's constant invasions of Costa Rican territory. We appeal to the OAS to intervene resolutely and restore order at the border. Our warning is that we are growing tired. We Costa Ricans are not prepared to withstand this disruption and threat any longer. To put it simply, we do not accept it. The Nicaraguan people will also awaken shortly and, when that time comes, Somoza's fall and flight will be our greatest festivity in 1979.

ASYLUM GRANTED TO THREE NICARAGUAN GUARDSMEN

PA011347 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0336 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 28 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Costa Rican Foreign Ministry reported today, Wednesday, that it has granted asylum to three Nicaraguan Guardsmen who requested it after deserting their country's National Guard. The refugees are Cpl Bismarck Miranda Lopez and Privates Julio Jose Pavon Sanchez and Jose Salgado Gomez. Miranda and Salgado crossed the border last week. Pavon had crossed it several weeks ago. The three guardsmen surrendered to this country's Civil Guard at the border town of Los Chiles.

It was reported that Miranda and Salgado were members of the group protecting a farm owned by President Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

The Costa Rican Foreign Ministry had previously granted asylum to Privates Placido Vallejo and Edmundo Vega, who are now performing miscellaneous duties in the National Security Office, this country's intelligence service.

EL SALVADOR

OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATES IN CAPITAL, OTHER MAJOR CITIES

PA011245 Paris AFP in Spanish 0310 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Feb (AFP)--The opposition held demonstrations all day today in the capital and in the country's major cities to commemorate the second anniversary of the death of several Salvadorans at the hands of the army.

According to press communiques issued by the leftwing Popular Revolutionary Bloc and the 28 February Popular League, pro-Christian, they had asked the people to express their repudiation of the government.

On 28 February 1977 the army fired on several hunger strikers in the capital's Plaza Mayo who were protesting what they termed "the presidential electoral fraud" that led to the victory of current President Gen Carlos H. Romero.

Several small fires were reported on various streets today, but no casualties occurred.

GUATEMALA

COMMENTARY ON CLARIFICATION OF KRAMER'S RESIGNATION REMARKS

PA011442 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[Station commentary: "President Lucas Speaks Clearly"]

[Text] A recent press conference held by President of the Republic Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia served to clarify some mistaken interpretations which apparently came about as a result of the announcement by Vice President Dr Francisco Villagran Kramer that his health could eventually force him to resign his post. His words led to supposition that there is something wrong in the administration, perhaps even a deterioration of the highly cordial and friendly relations the chief of state has with his vice president. However, the fact is that the administration has suffered no change.

The origin of the interpretations was probably a logical one. According to journalistic practice, statements by officials are usually subject to personal interpretations, as the journalist makes conscientious use of his point of reference whenever he knows or considers it feasible to interpret a statement in a particular way. This often happens with diplomatic or consular language, which lends itself to interpretations. It also happens with ordinary language because the use of terms with a specific connotation may suggest, imply or merely insinuate a fact. The reporter, then, has to work with delicate material.

Because of the above, President Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia uses simple, clear and precise language, leaving no grounds for doubt or misinterpretation.

He confirmed his faith in democracy and his confidence in the work of the press and also the certainty that the vice president of the republic will remain at his post in order to consolidate government action for the benefit of the great majority in the country.

The situation regarding the administration is clear and objective. There is consonance in the powers of the state and concordance in the decisions of the executive branch. So the president's press conference was of great public service.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON 'ANTIREPRESSION' ORGANIZATION

PA021242 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 2 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Minister Carlos Toledo Vielmann, public relations secretary of the presidency, emphasized today that the organization called the Democratic Front Against Repression may begin to operate whenever its organizers obtain legal status in conformity with the law governing such groups. For the time being, however, it cannot operate because it would be doing so illegally.

Toledo Vielmann said that the organizers of this group took the wrong path when they named the group "Front Against Repression" instead of "National Front Against Subversion." The official added that if the group really hopes to help achieve social peace in Guatemala, the organizers of the front should first establish the difference between subversion and repression, which would bring home to them the real significance of the name.

Toledo Vielmann later added that Guatemala is not experiencing a climate of repression since the government of the republic acts in accordance with the constitution, as President Lucas Garcia and Vice President Dr Villagran Kramer have said. On the other hand, the problem of subversion does exist [words indistinct], and an attempt is being made to eradicate it from the country.

GUATEMALAN GUERRILLAS JOIN FSLN STRUGGLE AGAINST SOMOZA

PA011255 Paris AFP in Spanish 0018 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Feb (AFP) --Two commando units comprised of Guatemalans are struggling in the ranks of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Nicaragua, it was learned here today. The commando groups are fighting under the names of Miguel Ortiz Avila and Benjamin Zeledon.

The Guatemalan guerrillas struggling in Nicaragua against Anastasio Somoza's regime have already clashed with the National Guard, AFP was told today. After a 3-hour struggle, 9 National Guardsmen were killed and 1 Guatemalan guerrilla was wounded. The name of the wounded guerrilla was given as Urbano Garcia Pelaez, who is from Uxpantan, El Quiche Department.

The sources which gave AFP the information did not say if that was the youth's real name or his nom de guerre.

NICARAGUA

CONSERVATIVE SPLIT, UPCOMING SOMOZA NEWS CONFERENCE REPORTED

PA011224 Paris AFP in Spanish 0227 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[By Horacio Ruiz]

[Excerpts] Managua, 28 Feb (AFP)--Political circles commented today that the Conservative Party, the only legally recognized opposition party, is at a crossroads with the resignation of its president, Rene Sandino, which was officially announced today. The dispute which created the four factions into which the once powerful party is divided is apparently based on a relatively simple matter: whether to keep the 40 seats it has in the congress (against the ruling Liberal Party's 80) or withdraw in order to isolate President Anastasio Somoza "even more."

President Somoza has announced a news conference for Friday at which it is believed he will present a plan involving constitutional amendments for presidential succession. Political circles believe that these amendments would be an "opening" through which Somoza will try to make a deal with the opposition to insure his own reelection in exchange for reforms of the judicial branch and a reorganization of the army. This is seen as an attempt at "rapprochement" with the Conservative Party in order to promote another understanding with it. It was recalled today that this party has made deals four times since 1950 with the ruler in office, each time a Somoza.

Meanwhile, in Mangua, Ceferino Vallecillo, a pro-Somoza labor leader, was "executed" today by members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN). Approximately 50 FSLN fighters fell back from Yali, 170 km north of Mangua, shouting "vivas" to the top leader of the Prolonged People's War faction, Henry "Modesto" Ruiz, after 2 days of intermittent fighting with the National Guard. Before they left they burned the post office, the mayor's office and other government buildings.

It was learned from an unofficial source that the president's oldest son, Lt Col Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero, will leave Nicaragua on a still undetermined date to take an advanced economy course lasting 6 months in "a European country."

FOUR PERSONS DIE IN VARIOUS CLASHES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

PA020320 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0032 GMT 2 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Four persons have died in Nicaragua as a result of the latest clashes. In Managua's Bello Horizonte neighborhood, a military patrol killed Giovanni Cordero and Ricardo Quintero, two students, after going to the area to investigate an abandoned luxurious Mercedes Benz automobile.

The car had been stolen earlier from the Silueta cosmetics factory by Sandinist guerrillas, who had also taken some products and 5,000 cordobas (\$714) in cash. The factory is located in northern Managua.

The students were looking at the automobile along with other persons but fled when the police patrols arrived. The police, believing that the students were implicated in the Sandinist action, killed them as they entered an empty house. The official report on this claims that the students fired on the soldiers.

There was a clash near the Santa Amalia farm today between armed elements belonging to the "international brigade" of the Sandinist Front--which, according to the Nicaraguan Government, operates from Costa Rican territory--and a patrol guarding the border with Costa Rica.

A National Guard communique states that in fleeing, the invaders inflicted a horrible death upon Omar Alvarez, a Nicaraguan peasant who was a resident of the town of Colon. This action took place when the invaders were 1 km away from the Costa Rican border.

Meanwhile, in the city of Masatepe, in the eastern [as received] Department of Masaya, a Sandinist brigade composed of four men attacked a military post, killing one soldier and seriously wounding another. A rural transportation checker who was in a small building escaped unharmed. The army has issued no official report on this action.

REPORT ON JOURNALISTS' DAY DEMONSTRATION IN MANAGUA

PA021200 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0011 GMT 2 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--This afternoon a group of demonstrators carrying posters of popular organizations dislodged the rifle from the concrete monument of a soldier atop the tomb of the late Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza Garcia.

The demonstrators, mostly young people, had taken part in a march on Managua's western cemetery to commemorate "Journalists' National Day." Somoza Garcia was the father of Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle, the current president.

The anti-Somoza demonstration took place in the general cemetery while Managua's newsmen were paying tribute to fallen journalists Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, Manolo Cuadra, Adan Selva Ramirez and Manuel Diaz Sotelo.

While leaders of the Nicaraguan newsmen were speaking before the tombs of the late journalists, a group broke from the main gathering and went to the National Guard officers' crypt, which contains the tomb of Somoza Garcia, who was assassinated on 21 September 1956 by opposition poet Rigoberto Lopez Perez.

The young persons used their hands and bodies to press against the concrete rifle until they were able to dislodge it. They then carried the symbolic weapon around the cemetery and shouted slogans against the regime headed by Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

Most journalists were given the day off today and political parties and groups, both of the opposition and the government, issued statements alluding to the work that the journalists carry out.

In the march, which had been authorized by the government, not only journalists but also the representatives from all the opposition political and popular parties and organizations participated.

During the demonstration a military airplane flew over the cemetery, conducting surveillance. At the end of the march, military patrols arrived at the cemetery but no incident has been reported.

RAUL CASTRO CONTINUES FOREIGN TOUR WITH BULGARIA VISIT

Moscow Departure

FL011423 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1403 GMT 1 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Soviet Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov has bade farewell in Moscow to army Gen Raul Castro, who left for Bulgaria today. The minister of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces headed a military delegation that made an official and friendly visit to the Soviet Union from 21 February to 1 March.

The second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba was decorated with the Order of Lenin, the Soviet Union's top award, which was presented to him by Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. For his part, Raul Castro presented the Jose Marti National Order to USSR Council of Ministers Chairman Aleksey Kosygin. He also held talks with Dmitriy Ustinov, marshal of the Soviet Union and defense minister of that fraternal country.

Arrival in Bulgaria

FL020024 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Heading a Cuban military delegation, army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, today arrived in Bulgaria on an official and friendly visit at the invitation of Todor Zhivkov, first secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] and chairman of the Council of State.

At the airport the Cuban leader was received by army Gen Dobri Dzhurov, member of the BCP Politburo and minister of national defense, and other Bulgarian high-ranking military officers. Others present for the welcoming ceremony were Jose Alvarez Bravo and Vladimir Bazovskiy, Cuban and Soviet ambassadors to Bulgaria, respectively.

Raul is traveling accompanied by Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State and president of the Federation of Cuban Women.

Later in the afternoon Raul Castro held talks with army Gen Dobri Dzhurov during which matters of mutual interest were discussed. Subsequently, Raul laid floral wreaths before the monument to Georgi Dimitrov, the monument to the Soviet Army and the tombs of the combatants against fascism and capitalism.

Meeting With Todor Zhivkov

FL020134 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 79 FL

[Text] A last-minute news agency report received at this radio station announces that Todor Zhivkov, first secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] and chairman of the Council of State, today received Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. During the talks matters aimed at broadening and deepening the fraternal friendship and multilateral cooperation between Bulgaria and Cuba and current international problems were discussed. Present at the meeting was army Gen Dobri Dzhurov, member of the BCP Politburo and minister of national defense.

Subsequently, Zhivkov gave a banquet in honor of the visitor and the official delegation accompanying him.

FURTHER ON VALDES VIVO MEETING WITH PHAM VAN DONG

FLO12129 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2103 GMT 1 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Raul Valdes Vivo, member of the PCC Secretariat, has visited Vietnam in response to an invitation from Xuan Thuy, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Valdes Vivo was received by Pham Van Dong, member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee Politburo and premier, who expressed his heart-felt thanks for the support for the Vietnamese nation shown by the Cuban party, government, people and Fidel Castro. Pham Van Dong confirmed the Vietnamese people's determination to defeat the aggressive actions taken by the Chinese governing circles and to firmly defend that socialist country. Valdes Vivo energetically condemned the Beijing mandarins, demanded the withdrawal of Chinese troops from Vietnamese territory and reaffirmed our people's unswerving militant solidarity.

UN DIPLOMAT SCORES CHILE'S 'SELLING OUT' TO FOREIGN CAPITAL

FLO11119 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Carlos Lechuga, Cuban representative to the UN Human Rights Committee, has asserted that the Chilean military junta's selling out to foreign capital is incredible. The Cuban representative said that Chile's selling out to greedy foreign capital has showered a small minority with extreme wealth and privileges and has left the people with poverty, unemployment and lack of medical service and educational opportunities. To have an idea of the Chilean tragedy, the Cuban diplomat added, one would have to count the number of sacrifices in torture chambers and add the millions of Chileans who, under the uncertainty of their present and future life, are subjected to hunger and disease without attention.

Referring to the report of a special group which the Human Rights Committee is examining in Geneva, Switzerland, Lechuga said it reflects the radical reduction of public funds devoted to social services, especially health, housing and education.

LIONEL SOTO, PCC DELEGATION VISIT IRELAND

FLO11744 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Dublin--A PCC delegation headed by Central Committee member Lionel Soto has visited this city at the invitation of the Communist Party of Ireland [CPI]. The Cuban delegation, which includes Sergio Rodriguez, section chief in the Central Committee's General Department of Foreign Relations, visited the CPI offices and other places of interest in the capital of the Republic of Ireland. The delegation participated in a commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution held at Trinity College of the University of Dublin. Soto and Rodriguez were received by CPI General Secretary Michael O'Riordan and other officials in that country. The Cuban delegation earlier had attended in Belfast, capital of Northern Ireland, the commemoration of the 16th anniversary of the CPI Congress.

BLAS ROCA REPORTS ON NOMINATION OF MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES

FLO20047 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 79 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Blas Roca Calderia this afternoon held a press conference on the assembly meeting process for the nomination of candidates as delegates to the people's government.

Our reporter Lucia Gonzalez now has a telephone report on the press conference.

[Begin Lucia Gonzalez recording] More than 4.3 million voters have participated in more than 27,000 assembly meetings for the nomination of candidates as delegates to the people's government organs throughout the country. This was announced by Blas Roca Calderio, president of the People's Government National Assembly and member of the PCC Politburo, in a press conference held today at the main offices of the National Electoral Commission.

Blas Roca stated that attendance at the assembly meetings is surprising if compared to the first electoral process, and added that this is a very positive fact because this attendance record constitutes a success of the electoral campaign and demonstrates the great interest shown by our masses in participating in the process.

Roca also referred to the number of women who have been nominated as candidates--2,395 of them, which is 9.8 percent of the total number of candidates. However, this number is fewer than those nominated in the previous process, and he called it a negative aspect. Another matter noted by Roca was the number of present delegates who were renominated, some 6,000. He stated that this demonstrates the good work they have done, making them deserving of nomination for another term.

In closing, the president of the National Assembly referred to the importance of the tasks that should be undertaken by the members of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution in preparation for the elections, such as distributing the voter identification cards and preparing the biographies of the candidates. [end recording]

NEW PENAL CODE PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE

FL011707 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1633 GMT 1 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The official GAZETTE has just published the new penal code. In accordance with Law 21 dated 15 February 1979, the People's Government National Assembly has ordered that the new penal code take effect starting in November 1979. This is the first socialist penal law to exist in Spanish and the first one on our continent. It is made up of 405 articles in 2 volumes. The first [volume] deals with what is called the general part of the code and includes 11 titles. The second volume, which is made up of 13 titles covering an equal number of what are called types of crimes, is called the special part.

Starting on 1 November 1979 the new penal code will replace the superseded, but still in effect, social defense code.

FIDEL CASTRO WELCOMES TEACHERS RETURNING FROM ANGOLA

FL020149 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Now we bring you a telephone report by our reporter Roberto Nachar.

[Begin Roberto Nachar recording] On behalf of the party, state and all our people, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro welcomed the members of the first contingent of the Che Guevara Internationalist Detachment who returned to our country after working nearly 1 year in the fraternal Angolan Republic. The solemn ceremony, which was held at the Lazaro Pena Auditorium of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers, was also a farewell ceremony for the 480 members of the second contingent who will depart for Angola shortly.

The PCC Central Committee first secretary and Council of State president made the closing remarks at the event. Sitting at the dais with Fidel were members of the PCC Politburo, Secretariat and Central Committee, as well as leaders of political and mass organizations. Angel (Hartuada), on behalf of the first contingent, made an emotional speech in which he recounted the accomplishments of the contingent in teaching more than 32,000 Angolan students.

For her part, Cecilia Mora read the oath of the second contingent, which was presented to Fidel with the signatures of all its members. During the event our commander in chief presented certificates to 14 members of the detachment selected as vanguard in the emulation conducted in various Angolan provinces. Likewise, Fidel accepted the flag from the first detachment and presented it to a representative of the second one. [end recording]

CASAS CHAIRS UJC MEETING AT ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF

FI011209 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 1 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The Union of Young Communists [UJC] in the [Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR)] General Staff yesterday held its second conference. It was chaired by Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State and first vice minister-chief of the FAR General Staff.

The participants examined the work done by UJC organizations in the General Staff since the previous conference held 2 years ago. During the conference, the participants received a militant greeting from the Jose Marti Organization of Pioneers and approved a message of solidarity with the heroic Vietnamese people and of condemnation of the dastardly aggression launched by China against Vietnam. The report read at the conference was broadly examined. It contains a critical analysis of the work done by the UJC members within the organization as well as in support of the principal tasks undertaken in directorates and units of the General Staff. Special reports were also made on experiences of UJC rank-and-file committees regarding their work with all the young combatants. Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro made the closing remarks.

UJC MEMBERS DECORATED BY USSR AMBASSADOR

FI282312 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 28 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Members and former members of the Union of Young Communists [UJC] Bureau and National Committee were decorated with the Komsomol Central Committee's insignia marking the 70th anniversary of that youth organization. The resolution, which was read by (Feliks Potapov), Komsomol representative to Cuba, notes that the distinction is awarded to the youth leaders in recognition of their efforts for developing the friendship ties between the two countries' youths and organizations and for their contributions to the success of the 11th [World Youth and Students--Festival]. USSR Ambassador to Cuba Nikita P. Tolubeyev himself decorated the Cuban youths.

CULTURE MINISTER HART TOURS GUANTANAMO, CAMAGUEY

FI261723 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Politburo and minister of culture, has toured numerous Guantanamo installations, which will help to project and raise cultural development in that province.

Hart Davalos visited the site where a vocational arts school is under construction at a cost of more than 1 million pesos. The school will have a capacity of 600 students. The minister of culture also visited the modern Guambo theater located in the center of the city. The theater will be inaugurated soon and it has space for 627 spectators.

The minister of culture and member of the PCC Politburo also toured Camaguey Province. He visited the vocational arts school in the Camaguey capital, which will begin operations in the next school year. Hart Davalos also visited the future house of culture in the municipality of Florida. This house will be located in a three-story building.

ANAP HOLDS PLENARY SESSION IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA

FL241706 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1546 GMT 24 Feb 79 FL

[Text] The National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP] has held the plenary session of its National Committee in the city of Santiago de Cuba. The participants adopted a resolution of support for the struggle of the heroic Vietnamese people against the criminal aggression of the fascist clique of the present Chinese leadership. The plenum also marked the 20th anniversary of the founding congress of the Frank Pais peasant organization in Oriente.

ANAP Vice President Orlando Barrios read the main report, which states that the country's ANAP members overfulfilled the plan of sugarcane delivery by 66 million arrobas during the 1978 sugar harvest. Attending the closing session was Jose Ramirez Cruz, member of the PCC Central Committee and ANAP president.

BLAS ROCA CHAIRS SANDINO DEATH OBSERVANCE

FL271113 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Blas Roca Calderio, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the People's Government National Assembly, has chaired the national commemoration of tribute to the memory of Nicaraguan anti-imperialist leader Augusto Cesar Sandino on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of his assassination.

The sugar mill that carries the name of the General of Free Men, located in the municipality of Mariel, Havana Province, was the site of the ceremony, which was attended by PCC Central Committee members Manuel Pineiro Losada, chief of its America Department, and Brig Gen Irving Ruiz Brito, vice minister of the interior.

Sandino lives in the fighting of his people, and his ideas are perpetuated by the battle cry which inspires the actions of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], Manuel Pineiro Losada declared in his closing remarks at the ceremony, which opened with remarks by FSLN representative in Cuba Rene Nunez Tellez.

COMMENTARY EQUATES CHINESE AGGRESSION WITH U.S. METHODS

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[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry Combatants Political Information Program commentary]

[Text] In its aggression against Vietnam, the Beijing treacherous clique is employing methods similar to those used by the Yankee imperialists when the latter launched their genocidal war against the thousand-times heroic Vietnamese people.

The mandarins have absorbed themselves with their Washington partners so much that they have even resorted to similar tricks and methods of attack. When the United States decided to launch its aggression against the Vietnamese nation, it fabricated the so-called Tonkin Gulf conflict. In order to attack Vietnam, the Chinese fabricated the stale problem of the Hua [ethnic Chinese].

During the signing of the Geneva agreements for peace in Vietnam, the Yankees meddled in the problem and imposed a puppet regime in Saigon, which led to the division of Vietnam and a war against the democratic north. Following the signing of the Paris accords, the Beijing mandarins used demagoguery and installed in Kampuchea a pro-China clique, a repressive regime similar to the one that existed in Saigon. From there, they undertook armed attacks on Vietnam.

The Chinese rulers violated the Vietnamese border and undertook an invasion designed to destroy the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, just as the U.S. imperialists did. The Beijing rulers, just as the Washington rulers did before them, also have violated with impunity the UN Charter and conventions that stipulate respect for the territorial integrity of other countries and have undertaken actions that are as condemnable as the Yankee genocide.

The United States used 500,000 soldiers against the Vietnamese people. It also used thousands of airplanes which bombed and machinegunned and employed a policy of destruction which generated the strongest world repudiation. In their attack on Vietnam, the Beijing traitors massed about 200,000 troops which have initiated so-called human wave tactics in an attempt to frighten the Vietnamese forces.

The facts show that the Chinese mandarins are trying to follow Yankee war methods literally. Another factor that shows similarities between the Yankee and Maoist aggressors is extension of the conflict to all of Indochina. The United States followed its invasion of Vietnam with attacks against Laos and Kampuchea. Now the Beijing rulers, after failing in Kampuchea, have invaded the Vietnamese nation and are also planning aggression against the Laotian people. The Chinese mandarins have pressured Thailand to let itself be used for warmongering actions in Southeast Asia. The imperialists did the same thing just a few years ago when they involved that country in their gruesome genocide.

These and many other examples confirm that China's traitors are on a path similar to the one employed by their U.S. allies. This does not deny the possibility of a similarity of views between Washington and Beijing for execution of the current bellicose adventure. However, what the Chinese mandarins do not see is that by following the paths used by the United States, or any other paths, they will not be able to achieve what North American imperialism was unable to achieve. The ambition, insanity and reactionary spirit of Mao's followers will crash in the face of the firmness, heroism and unyielding will of the Vietnamese, Laotian and Kampuchean peoples. As the Yankees did in the past, the Chinese aggressors will get out of Southeast Asia, as the Vietnamese Government has predicted, leaving their dead and fleeing after biting the dust of defeat.